



# Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

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## Testimony in Support SB 528 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

To: Chairman Pinsky and the members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Phil Webster, PhD  
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Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland.

Date: February 15, 2022

The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland (UULM-MD) strongly supports **SB 528 Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022** and urges a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS report by the committee.

The UULM-MD is a faith-based advocacy organization based on the Principles of Unitarian Universalism. Two Principles are particularly relevant. The Second Principle, Justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the Seventh Principle, Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

This legislation has notable provisions of justice and equity. We know that global climate change impacts marginalized communities first and worst. How can there be justice and equity if one part of society is reaping in the benefits, while another is paying all of the costs? The CSN Act creates the *Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities Commission* to ensure that under invested communities are not left behind. The Act creates a *Just Transition Employment & Retraining Working Group* to ensure workers will receive fair and equitable labor standards and family-sustaining jobs. The Act also creates the *Maryland Climate Justice Corps* focusing on preparing youth for careers in green energy.

We also believe that we should all have respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. We all know that the growing use of fossil fuels increases greenhouse gasses (GHG) leading to increasing global temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of severe weather and sea level rise. We applaud the accelerated targets for GHG reductions. The Act includes admirable provisions in energy generation and efficiency, reducing GHG reductions in the transportation and buildings sector, and starting to address methane leakage in landfills.

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The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 should be strengthened with the amendments proposed by the Climate Partners, a coalition of justice and climate organizations. The Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland supports these Amendments. They are attached to the end of this testimony.

All Marylanders need bold and urgent action! Please keep us on the right and moral path towards a livable climate and a sustainable world. We owe it to our children.

We support this bill and recommend a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS report in committee.

*Phil Webster, PhD*

Lead Advocate, Climate Change UULM-MD

### **Proposed Amendments to SB 528 Climate Solutions Now, 2022**

#### *Building electrification and efficiency:*

- Climate Catalytic Capital Fund
  - Explicitly state that 40% of funds from the Climate Catalytic Capital Fund be spent in low and moderate-income neighborhoods and that funds can be spent on whole-structure retrofits (including multi-family buildings) including health, safety, weatherization, and electrification measures.
  - The purpose of the funds should explicitly include “Facilitate the electrification of the building sector”.
  - Explicitly state that funds cannot be used for installation of new equipment that uses fossil fuels
  - Funds from alternative compliance payments should go to the Climate Catalytic fund to be spent on low-income whole-structure retrofits, including low-income multi-family buildings.
- On page 35, lines 2-3, strike “water and space heating” and substitute “on-site energy” and add on line 3, “except for kitchen appliances”.
- On page 35, following line 9, add energy efficiency provisions for buildings. Add:
  - D. For new covered buildings funded at least 25% by State funds
    - A 40% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received between Jan 1 2023 and Dec 31 2025
    - A 60% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received between Jan 1 2025 and Dec 31 2027
  - E. For all other new covered buildings
    - A 40% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received between Jan 1 2025 and Dec 31 2027

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- A 60% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code for permit applications received F. MAJOR RENOVATIONS – Energy Conservation

F. “Major Renovation” means a renovation project:

- For which the total projected cost exceeds 50% of the assessed value of the existing building; or
- Involving a change of use, if the change involves the application of different requirements of the standards.

G. Except as provided in subsection ( ) of this section, if a covered building is undergoing a major renovation, the building shall be renovated to achieve:

- A 40% reduction in the building’s average annual energy use; or
- A 20% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the current Energy Code.

H. A local jurisdiction may waive the requirements under subsection ( ) of this section if the building owner demonstrates that the cost of the improvements necessary to achieve the required energy reductions would exceed projected operational and energy savings from the improvements over a certain payback period:

- o A 25–year period for all buildings funded at least 25% by the State.
- o A 15–year period for all other buildings.
- Provisions regarding “alternative compliance pathway” on page 47, lines 20 -23, and lines 27-29, should be sunsetted. We suggest a sunset of 12/1/2030
- Pages 47, delete lines 18-19 ( “PROVIDE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY TO THE OWNERS OF COVERED BUILDINGS TO COMPLY WITH BUILDING EMISSIONS STANDARDS”)
- The Building Emission Performance Standards regulations directive under 2-1602 (C) should
  - o require that the adopted regulations prioritize direct emission reductions from qualified buildings via electrification plans and pathways,
  - o provide protection against financial cost pass-through and evictions for tenants in covered multi-family buildings, 3) require covered public buildings’ retrofits to be completed with a high-quality workforce (i.e. prevailing wage, insurance coverage, paid leave, etc.) (pg. 48)

#### *Equity and Environmental Justice Provisions*

- Strengthen the provisions on pages 9-12 by including language from HB 1033 that requires 40% of investments go to overburdened communities.
  - o The language from HB 880 should be incorporated on page 22, lines 12-15 as well
  - o The Interagency Commission on School Construction should be included as an agency required to consider climate in long-term planning

#### *Net Zero Schools*

- Explicitly state that the IAC state school construction funding process may cover planning, design, and engineering for net-zero schools.
- School buildings that are not net-zero should be net-zero ready Insert on Page 35, following line 6  
(12-501(3)(l)(2)(A (under the provision requiring solar ready):
  - A. The Installation of Solar Energy Systems
    - To include a 40% roof set aside and necessary electrical panel and conduit requirements. if the building:
    - Will have 20,000 square feet or more of continuous roof space, excluding the parking area; and
    - Will be 20 stories or less in height, above grade plane.

- B. Regulations adopted under this subsection may authorize a local jurisdiction to waive the solar-ready requirement for a building on a specific finding that:
- incident solar radiation at the building site is less than 75% of incident solar radiation at an open site; or
  - shadow studies indicate that 25% of a building's roof area will be in shadow.
  - Clarify the definition of "Solar Ready" to include the 40% roof set aside and the necessary electrical panel and conduit requirements.

- Delete "subject to the availability of funding" on Page 8 Line 14 and replace that language with one of the options below -
- P. 8, line 9-13, (5-312(c)(2)(I), Delete para. "Except as Provided in . . . Delete 5-312 (c) (2) (I) of the Education Article that was inserted: except as provided in subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the net-zero energy requirements that apply for a building to meet the definition of a 'high performance building' under § 3-602.1 12 of the state finance and procurement article

OR

- Amend to read: Except as provided in Subparagraph III of this Paragraph, Public Schools shall be required to achieve a 40% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code by 2023 and a 60% reduction in modeled energy use consumption over the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code by 2025.
- Pg 40 line 15-17. Remove having the Council develop guidelines and instead require them to provide an annual report on the status of meeting the high performance building requirements.
- Pg 8, line 25 – pg 9, line 2. If a school qualifies for a waiver because the Interagency Commission determines that either (I) or (II) is true, the school must be net-zero READY.

*Buy Clean Maryland Act*

- Consider adding To SB 528 the **Buy Clean Maryland Act** provisions from HB 806 - Del. Stein Public Buildings bill with one change related to the waiver provisions.
  - Section 4-904 (E) **Strike** - ~~(4) RESULT IN ONLY ONE SOURCE OR MANUFACTURER BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MATERIALS.~~
  - **Add** - (F) IF ONLY ONE SOURCE OR MANUFACTURER IS ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MATERIALS, A SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT MAY BE ALLOWED, PROVIDED NONE OF THE OTHER WAIVER DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE.